

In 1996, Haider called "The government's so-called integration policy a disaster. They are ready to open the doors to another 153,000 foreigners who will take school places, training places and flats (apartments)," Haider said. He continued, "When Turkish children demand protection money from our children at the playground, it's time to say, this is our state," Haider declared.

Haider has continued to wage a xenophobic campaign to expel foreign workers. In March 1997, Haider stated that he wants one third of all foreigners working in Austria to be sent home over the next two years.

According to Haider, "We take the right stand at the right time to save Austria against the dangers coming from outside."

#### DEFENDING NAZI POLICY AND NAZIS

According to his critics, despite public disclaimers and overtures, Haider has a public record of defending the policies of Nazi Germany and of justifying individual actions during those years. Haider has utilized terminology reminiscent of the Nazis, announcing, for example in October 1990 a "final solution to the farm question." Upon his election to the leadership of the Freedom Party, Haider rejected comparisons with the German Nazi Party, saying "The Freedom Party is not the descendant of the National Socialist Party. If it were, we would have an absolute majority."

Indeed, Haider first gained international attention in March 1986 during the controversy surrounding the return of Walter Reder, an Austrian born former major in the Nazi SS, who was freed by Italy from a life sentence he was serving for his role in the mass killing of Italian civilians in 1944. For Haider, the controversy was ridiculous, as Reder was "a soldier who had done his duty." Dismissing Reder's wartime activities, Haider stated: "If you are going to speak about war crimes, you should admit such crimes were committed by all sides."

Haider's most infamous comment came during a July 1991 debate in the Carinthia provincial parliament, when Haider, then governor, declared: "An orderly employment policy was carried out in the Third Reich, which the government in Vienna cannot manage." In face of a national and international uproar, Haider apologized for his remarks, but said "What I said was a statement of fact: that in the Third Reich a large number of workplaces were created through an intensive employment policy and unemployment was thereby eliminated." Haider, of course, did not mention to particulars of Nazi labor policy, including military build-up, slave labor, and concentration camps. Recently, Haider defended his 1991 statement, claiming he was referring to Nazi policy between 1933 and 1936.

In May 1992, while the government was embroiled in a scandal involving a provincial government's decision to honor a gathering of Waffen SS veterans, Haider defended the decision. Haider instead accused the Interior Minister in Parliament of engaging in "primitive attacks" on "respectable" war veterans, while turning a blind eye to immigrant perpetrated crime.

More recently, Haider spoke out against the Austrian government's plans to compensate 30,000 Austrian victims of Nazi rule, including Jews, Communists and homosexuals, claiming that Austrian victims of the allies, such as civilians who fled Austria's occupation by US, Soviet, French and British troops, should also be compensated. As he told an elderly Austrian audience in April 1995, "It is not fair if all the money from the tax coffers goes to Israel." However, when the Parliament voted in June to set up a \$50 million compensation fund, Haider voted in its favor. Still insisting on

the need for compensation for victims of the allies, Haider explained, "But we do not intend to be petty. Even though you will not join us to widen the scope of the fund we will not vote against the bill. We too want to draw a line under a chapter we are also responsible for."

In May 1995, the Freedom Party was the only major Austrian political party absent from ceremonies at Mauthausen death camp marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the camp. Just before the anniversary, Haider had referred to Mauthausen as a "punishment camp," implying that those interred there were criminals.

While addressing the reunion of Waffen-SS veterans, Haider declared that the reason people opposed them was "simply that in this world there are decent people who have character and who have stuck to their beliefs through the strongest headwinds and who remained true to their convictions until today." Haider's appearance at the ceremony was unknown until days before amateur videotape of the gathering was broadcast on German television in December 1995.

Following these revelations, Haider defended his appearance at the event, saying: "The Waffen SS was a part of the Wehrmacht and hence it deserves all the honor and respect of the army in public life." "Everything I said in that video was completely acceptable." "I participated in this event and I don't see any reason not to. While I reject National Socialism, I certainly do not approve of the wholesale disparagement of the older war generation. I stand by this generation and I fight against the way it is disparaged." Haider claimed he did not know the Waffen SS had been branded a criminal organization by the post-war Nuremberg war crimes tribunal, adding: "It doesn't interest me in the least."

In December 1995, after viewing the video which captured Haider addressing and mingling with former SS officers, Austrian public prosecutors launched a criminal investigation into Haider's comments and speech on the basis of the law against reviving Nazism. Following the investigation by the public prosecutor's offices, the Austrian ministry of justice announced that it was to drop the proceedings because of insufficient grounds.

During the parliamentary debate in July 1998 on a proposed new law requiring applicants for Austrian citizenship to prove knowledge of German, Franz Larfer, an MP of the Freedom Party, used the word *Umvolkung*. This term was used by the Nazis to define the forced change of the ethnic composition of a population by immigration or compulsory transfer. This happened in Eastern Europe during the Nazi-period leading consequently to the annihilation of the inhabitants. The term is comparable to the expression ethnic cleansing.

In reaction to the use of this expression, members of the Austrian parliament booed and shouted and the session had to be interrupted. After Heinz Fischer, the president of the Austrian parliament, explained to Larfer the meaning of the word, Larfer returned to the microphone apologizing for applying it. As the media reported extensively on this incident, Haider defended Larfer's use of this term, and reiterated in a press conference the following day that his colleague was right in using this expression, explaining that the government applying a liberal immigration policy allows for extensive "foreign infiltration," which subsequently leads to *Umvolkung*.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would first like to thank Congressman LANTOS for taking the lead on this important Resolution.

As a survivor of the horrors of the Nazi regime, he knows better than anyone on the International Relations Committee or in this Congress the dangers of complacency. Congressman LANTOS knows that remaining silent when hate-mongers come to power is not an option. And I thank him again for his leadership and his dedication.

Mr. Speaker, everyone in this Congress has heard the comments made by Jorg Haider and leaders of the Freedom Party. Comments praising Hitler's policies. Statements praising the Waffen S.S. Assertions consistently blaming problems in Austria, including low employment, high taxes and the spread of disease on immigrants.

Mr. Haider's views are clear and his intentions are known. And his attempt to apologize each time he makes an offensive statement has grown as tiresome to me as his hateful statements. And although Mr. Haider has resigned his position, his party, the Freedom Party, remains in a coalition government in Austria with the People's Party. This must not be accepted.

That is why I have joined with Congressman LANTOS, Chairman GILMAN, Ranking Member GEJDENSON, another survivor of the Nazi era, and a number of my colleagues in introducing H. Res. 429. The House International Relations Committee has passed this Resolution and it is appropriate and necessary that the U.S. Congress put itself on record as disapproving of such a Government.

Once again, I would like to thank Congressman LANTOS for his leadership on this pressing issue, as well as Chairman GILMAN and Ranking Member GEJDENSON for their support.

I urge my colleagues to support this important Resolution.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 429.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 429.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

#### MUTUAL FUND TAX AWARENESS ACT OF 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1089) to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to require the improved disclosure of after-tax returns regarding mutual fund performance, and for other purposes, as amended.